



# Budgeting for Insect Control in 2001

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While many of you may be thinking about winding down and reflecting on this year's growing season, it is that time of year again, time to start planning for next year. Many of you must begin preparing your 2001 budgets.

This process can often be a very difficult task; much of your budgeting items and/or categories are derived from previous year(s) as well as predicted or anticipated expenditures. However, as you well know, no two years are alike. And to complicate the budgeting process even more, the increased range of expansion, infestation, and subsequent damage of Japanese beetles in Wisconsin brings yet another budgeting consideration into the equation.

The average cost of preventative white grub (i.e., Japanese beetle grubs) control is \$100 per acre. Should you decide to treat tees, tee banks, green banks, fairways and roughs, you could be looking at an estimated budgeting cost of between \$8000-\$15000, depending on the size of your golf course. You do, however, have a viable option of not treating grubs preven-

tatively; you can opt to treat grubs curatively with products such as Dylox or Sevin. Each of these products cost approximately \$96 and \$56 per acre, Dylox and Sevin, respectively.

At first glance it may appear that treating curatively is the most economical approach! Don't be fooled; preventative products that are commercially available frequently have considerably better efficacy or control (> 90%) compared to curative products (45-90%). Thus it may be wiser to budget for preventative control products such as Mach 2, Meridian, or Merit.

Another aspect of Japanese beetles that should be considered when budgeting is control of adults. Japanese beetle adults can cause extensive aesthetic damage to numerous trees and shrubs. Thus, allocating budget dollars for adult control should also be considered. Similarly to grub control, adults can also be controlled either preventatively or curatively. However, curative adult control products work equally as well as preventative products, and they often cost less. ♣

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